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No. File No. D. 7377

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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Section 2, Special Branch ~~XXIV~~

REPORT

Date May 1, 1936.

Subject P. Loboda, G. Bogoslavsky, O. Lebedeff, G. Savostin and

P. Hladneff - "round-the-world" travellers.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev. Forwarded by I. S. Kogu

With reference to the endorsement of the Deputy Commissioner (Crime) on the attached letter dated 25.4.36 from the Editor's Office, "North China Daily News", concerning a group of Russians who are reported to be begging for funds in support of a round-the-world trip they intend to undertake in a small sail boat, these individuals' antecedents and records as known to this office are as follows:-

See D. 7377, re similar entries

(1) Petr Petrovitch LOBODA, 29, Russian, arrived in Shanghai from Kobe in October, 1930. He is reported to have been formerly employed with the Soviet Mercantile Fleet at Vladivostock. In Shanghai he worked as a musician in local cabarets for some time, after which he was unemployed. In 1933 he visited Dairen. On 1.3.34 he joined the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., which he left on 13.6.34 without permission and before his agreement had expired. It is reported that in 1934 he participated in a trip to South ^{China} similar to the trip he plans at present.

Ac. Sp. Br

Thanks

(CRIME BRANCH)

15 May 1936

(2) Grigory Alexandrovitch BOGOSLOVSKY, 28, Russian, arrived in Shanghai from Harbin in September, 1931. On 5.12.34 he joined the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., with which he served until

15.1.36, when he resigned on his own accord.

(3) Gennady Yakovlevitch SAVOSTIN, 26, Russian, arrived in Shanghai from Harbin in July, 1930. On August 15 of the same year he joined the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., in which he served until December, 1935, when he had to resign under pressure.

(4) Oleg Victorovitch LEBEDEFF, 21, Russian, arrived in Shanghai from Harbin 1922 and lived at Mrs. Dieterich's orphanage for several years after which he worked as a chauffeur for some time. On March 1, 1934 he joined the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., in which he served until 1.1.36, when he

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F.I.C./J.R.

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resigned on his own accord.

5. Pavel Pavlovitch HLUDEFF, 24, Russian, is reported to have left the U.S.S.R. in 1926 and to have resided in Manchuria for the following seven years. He arrived in Shanghai from Hailar in 1933. From 17.1.33 to 17.8.33 and from 1.11.33 to 1.6.34 he served with the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., both times leaving the service on his own accord. It is reported that he subsequently served with the French Fire Brigade for some time. In September, 1935, together with three other Russians he left Shanghai in a sail boat with the intention to make a trip to Australia. The venture proved to be a failure and he returned to Shanghai. Here he was employed with the Scotch Bakery for a few months, after which he resigned to join the "round-the-world" trip headed by Loboda.

They are registered with either the Russian Emigrants Committee or the Council of United Russian Organizations (SORO). Nothing detrimental is known by this office regarding these persons.

Information in hand indicates that Loboda is the leader of the group and that their intention to make a trip to the South ~~Sea~~ is genuine. There also is little doubt that whatever funds they have been able to raise were barely sufficient to buy their small craft in Shanghai. As the possibility of earning their living while en-route is highly improbable, it is certain that they will have to resort to begging for funds in every port they may be able to reach. Their "journal" (copy attached) as well as their book containing signatures of various persons wishing them success will be helpful for this purpose as they tend to prove the bona fides of the adventure.

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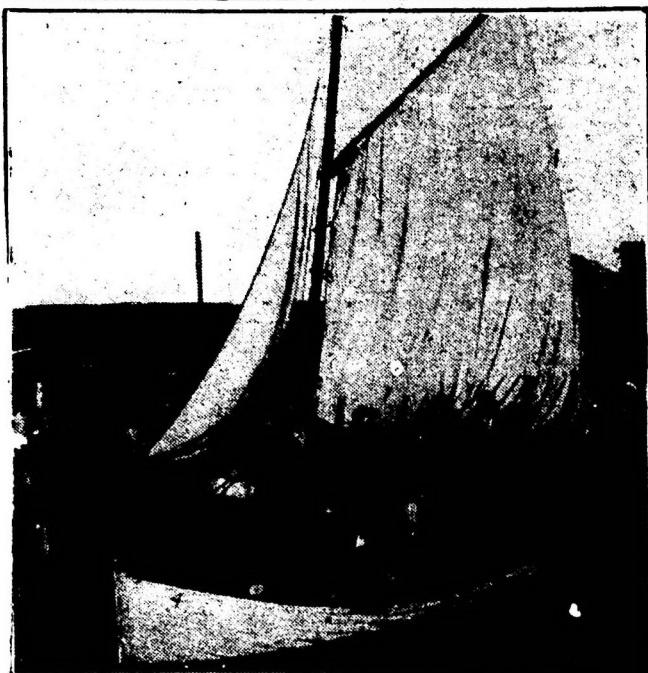
Mr. J. Neil, the owner of the Scotch Bakery, referred to in the journal in question as "the patron of the expedition" is one of those who made a small contribution in support of the trip. It also may be mentioned that he seems to be very little pleased with the prominence he has been given in connection with this matter.

The life boat which is named "Clear Way" was moored near the Tinghai Road bridge until the morning of April 29 when she is reported to have put to sea. Her destination is not known.

A. Prokopiew

D. S. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Seek To Conquer Seven Seas

In this 25-ft. lifeboat, fitted with two sails, an outboard motor and a goodly supply of Shanghai chow, four local Russian youths plan to sail out the Yangtze Estuary this week to adventure on the high seas and what they hope will be a trip around the world. The boat, named the Clear Way, is now tied up on the Fooching side of the Whangpoo while last-minute preparations before weighing anchor are being finished.

4 Russians To Sail Lifeboat Around World

25-Ft. Craft Fitted With Two Sails And Outboard Motor

SEAWORTHINESS IS UNKNOWN FACTOR

Hongkong To Be First Stop; Seek Escape From Depression

There must be something in the damp, tubercular atmosphere of Shanghai that stimulates the wanderlust in the population of this Birdad-by-the-Whangpoo. At any rate, there must be something that fires the imagination, for once again a group is making preparations to use this port as a starting point for a round-the-world adventure.

The characters of this new melo-drama—its plot rather hackneyed now through constant misuse—are four Russian boys, Peter Loboda, Giorgi Bogoslavsky, Gleek Lebedeff and Gennady Sovostin.

Their craft is a converted lifeboat, Christened Clear Way, length 25 feet, nine feet across the beam, two-and-a-half feet depth, and seaworthiness an unknown factor.

The lifeboat has been fitted with a mainsail and a jib, also with an outboard motor. With the Russian quartet on board, and with supplies et al, it is figured that the boat will register 12 tons. At present it is tied up on the Fooching side of the river.

Peter Loboda, leader of the group, aged 23, seemed quite enthusiastic about his plans yesterday. He announced that they intended to take off within three or four days . . . destination, Hongkong. After the colony, the tentative route was named as Philippines, East Indies, Australia, New Zealand and then Europe or Hawaii.

Captain Loboda knows the route. At least, he claims to have made a trip to the Philippines in an even lighter craft a couple of years ago.

Asked why the four had decided on such a dare-devil adventure, the skipper answered that they were all previously members of the Russian Navy, having graduated from the Naval Academy at Kronstadt. They had been assigned to the Chinese coast guard, but had been discharged after the Chinese Communists took over the country.

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D.S.J. Frankopan, to note
J.P.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS
THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD (WEEKLY)

ESTABLISHED 1860

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 707, SHANGHAI

TELEGRAMS: HERALD SHANGHAI

EDITOR'S OFFICE

SHANGHAI, CHINA

25th April, 1936

Major F. W. Gerrard, C.I.D.,
Office of Commissioner of Police,
Administration Building

Dear Major Gerrard,

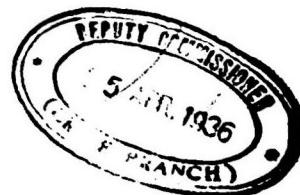
Over the telephone this morning Mr. Hawari told me to send the enclosed to you for your information.

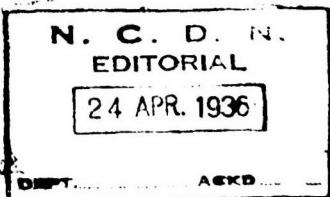
Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Latimer

Dorothy Latimer
Editor's Secretary

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Shanghai 24th April,

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E. Haward, Esq.,
Editor,
North-China Daily News,
Shanghai.

Sir,

Some months ago, two Russian Youths called in to see me to tell me that they were starting a trip around the world in a fore and aft schooner of about 25 ft. over all.

I told them they were fools, as I was (unhappily) a sailor, but I signed their book, and wished them luck.

To-day they came again and left the booklet (herewith for you) and begged for funds, as they leave to-morrow for a trip around the world.

These boys (in my opinion) should be seen by police, as they are only trying on another, "Get Rich Wallingford" scheme; don't you agree?.

Commander Warner saw them in Mingheng begging, only a short time ago, and I have been over to Shipping office, and nothing is known of them.

Yours faithfully,

H. Brangford Clough
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